1154 million tonnes (as oil equivalent), respectively.

The crude production and gas supplies during 1987-88 were 30.36 million tonnes and 6620 million cubic meters respectively.

Crisis in Salt Industry

605. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unprecedented crisis in the salt industry in the country with the stagnant demand and massive pile up of salt stocks posing serious problems of its liquidation;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any analysis of the circumstances leading to the crisis; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the steps taken by Government to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Government is aware that there is accumulation of salt due to over production in all major salt production centres on account of Prevailing drought conditions.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Govt. to stimulate domestic and export demands to ease salt stocks accumulation are:

(i) New Industrial units for production of Soda Ash/Caustic Soda have been licensed. The present units have been advised to maximise their production to increase the consumption of salt.

(ii) Fresh assignment of land for salt manufacturing has been kept in abeyance for two years.

(iii) Export of common salt has been decanalised and brought under O.G.L. without any ceiling limit.

(iv) Export of iodised salt has been de-canalised with a ceiling limit of 5 lakh tonnes during 1987-88.

(v) Minimum export price has been abolished.

Crisis in the Plastic Industry

606. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether plastic industry in the country is facing crisis owing to acute shortage of raw material; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to help the industry tide over the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO:) (a) and (b) At present the production capacity for plastic raw materials in the country is not adequaate meet the indigenous demand in full. Even though to facilitate coverage of the gap between demand and domestic availabiliy, the import of plastic raw materials is permitted on OGL to actual users (Industrial), the consumers units at times face problems in organising the requisite imports due to prevailing worldwide shortage of plastic raw materials. Government are organising bulk imports through STC and IPCL to help such small scale units. By way of long term solution to the problem, additional capacities for the manufacture of plastic raw materials have been approved and are in the process of being established.